

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIM 1. An ophthalmic preparation comprising a glycomacropeptide derived from one of mammalian milk and a milk byproduct.

CLAIM 2. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the glycomacropeptide component is derived from dairy whey.

CLAIM 3. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the glycomacropeptide is derived from casein.

CLAIM 4. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the glycomacropeptide containing component has an apparent molecular weight of about 31,000 daltons

CLAIM 5. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the glycomacropeptide containing components have a carbohydrate content of about 3% by weight to about 50% by weight.

CLAIM 6. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said preparation is in the form of one of a solution, an ointment and an ocular insert.

CLAIM 7. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the glycomacropeptide is present in an amount from about 0.001% to about 10.0% by weight.

CLAIM 8. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the glycomacropeptide is present in an amount from about 10% to about 90% by weight.

CLAIM 9. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the glycomacropeptide is autoclavable.

CLAIM 10. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a material selected from the group consisting of a buffering agent; a viscosity modifying agent; a tonicity modifying agent; a humectant compound; and a therapeutic drug.

CLAIM 11. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said glycomacropeptide is derived from sweet whey.

CLAIM 12. An ophthalmic preparation in accordance with Claim 11, wherein said glycomacropeptide is derived from purified whey .

CLAIM 13. A method of treating dry eye in a mammal comprising administering an ophthalmic preparation to said mammal in need thereof an amount of a glycomacropeptide component that is contained therein and that is effective to treat the dry eye of said mammal.

CLAIM 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said effective amount of the glycomacropeptide component is from about 0.01 mg to about 5.0 mg per dose.

CLAIM 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein said effective amount of the glycomacropeptide component is from about 5.0 mg to about 20.0 mg per dose.

CLAIM 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein said effective amount of the glycomacropeptide component is from about 20.0 mg to about 200 mg per dose.

CLAIM 17. A therapeutic package for dispensing to, or for use in dispensing to, a patient being treated for dry eye comprising:

one or more unit doses, each such unit dose comprising an amount of glycomacropeptide therein such that periodic administration of one or more of said unit doses is effective to treat said dry eye condition, and

a finished pharmaceutical container therefore, said container containing said unit dose or multiple doses, said container further including labeling;

said labeling directing the use of said package in the treatment of said dry eye condition in a dosage regimen under which the delivery of said glycomacropeptide is confined to the period during the day proximate to the time of day at which the patient requires treatment, and further directing the use of said package in conjunction with the concomitant administration to said patient of one or more unit doses providing a therapeutically effective amount of glycomacropeptide to said patient.

CLAIM 18. A package according to Claim 17 in which the delivery of said glycomacropeptide is directed to be confined proximate to the time of waking and the delivery of said glycomacropeptide is confined proximate to the time of onset of sleeping.

CLAIM 19. A therapeutic package for dispensing to, or for use in dispensing to, a patient being treated for dry eye comprising:

one or more unit doses, each such unit dose comprising an amount of glycomacropeptide therein such that periodic administration of one or more of said unit doses is effective to treat said dry eye condition, and

a finished pharmaceutical container therefore, said container containing said unit dose or multiple doses, said container further containing or comprising labeling;

said labeling directing the use of said package in the treatment of said dry eye condition in a dosage regimen under which the delivery of said glycomacropeptide is one or more times daily, or as directed by a physician.

CLAIM 20. A package according to Claim 19 wherein said labeling directs the use of said package in the treatment of dry eye induced by an activity selected from the group consisting of: contact lens wear and prolonged viewing of a computer screen.

CLAIM 21. A package according to Claim 19 that is produced by form, fill and seal manufacturing wherein each container contains from about 0.50 ml to about 1.50 ml of glycomacropeptide solution.

CLAIM 22. A package according to Claim 19 comprising a bottle, dropper tip and cap wherein each bottle contains from about 2.0 ml to about 30.0 ml of glycomacropeptide solution.

CLAIM 23. A package according to Claim 21 in which said unit dose containers are provided to accommodate an uninterrupted dosage regimen basis of at least one month.